(c) the extent to which this would help to create additional job opportunities in this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India. However, the Government of Orissa had intimated that there is a porposal for setting up a ship building yard and ship repair facilities at the mouth of the Dhamra river in Bhadrak District in Orissa as a joint venture project.

(c) The project, proposed to be implemented in three phases, has a potential of providing direct employment to about 11,000 persons and indirect employment to about 45,000 persons.

Security threat from Sethusamudram Canal

289. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Director-General of Coast Guard to the effect that Sethusamurdram Canal can pose security threat to India;

(b) if so, whether Government has since examined the implication of such a statement; and

(c) if so, Governmnt's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R.BALLU): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the statement of Director General of Coast guard. The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project was approved by the Government in May, 2005 after obtaining all necessary clearances and inter-Ministerial consultation. However, pursuant to an order passed by the Supreme Court on 31.8.2007, dredging work at Adam's Bridge area has been suspended. Further, pursuant to the submissions made before the Hon'ble supreme Court of India by the Government Counsel on 14.9.2007 in respect of certain transferred cases and writ petitions relating to the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, the Government constituted a Committee consisting of eminent persons on 5.10.2007 with the terms of reference to invite objections & suggestions from all concerned including the writ petitioners having interest in the subject matter and to consider all suggestions/ proposals/documents after giving them a personal hearing. The Committee has submitted its report on 29.11.2007. The report is under consideration.

J.J. and rehabilitation colonies in Delhi

†290. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of J.J. and rehabilitation colonies and their locations in Delhi till 31st December, 2007 along with the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to give ownership right to the residents of these colonies to whom plots of 22 and half yards measurement had been allotted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.